

**RESIGNATIONS.**

We regret to learn that Miss Harriet Barton has resigned the position of Central Sister in connection with the Ranyard Nurses (Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C. 1), on account of failing health. Miss Barton was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and has been on the staff of the Ranyard Nurses for 24 years, where, says the *Ranyard Magazine*, she has given invaluable service. For the last seven years she has helped in all the organising work at the Centre, and in training candidates, as well as in visiting Nurses in their districts, and has been the greatest stand-by in the Nursing Branch during all the changes of recent years. Now she has gone to her home in Jersey to await a passage to South Africa, where her brother is living. Her many friends unite in hoping that the voyage and thorough change will greatly benefit her health.

**THE PASSING BELL.**

Many nurses in Europe, America and Australia will be grieved to learn of the death of Miss Susan B. McGahey, formerly Matron of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, and a past President of the International Council of Nurses. Miss McGahey, who was trained at the London Hospital, went to Australia in 1890, and a year later was appointed Matron of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, an appointment she held for 13 years. She was one of the founders of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, and a Foundation Member of the International Council of Nurses. She was present at the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo, U.S.A., in 1901, and succeeded to the Presidency in 1904. For some years she has been in failing health, but, says the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, showed the same strength of will and determination throughout her illness which characterised her early life. She was laid to rest on the sunny hillside at Carlingford, after many years of pain and weariness.

**THANK-OFFERINGS FOR PEACE.**

At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Sheffield Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, held on the 20th inst., it was reported that the sum of £5,000 had been received as a thank-offering for peace from Mr. S. M. Johnson, of Endcliffe Court, Sheffield. In a letter accompanying the gift Mr. Johnson said he felt that he ought to give some tangible expression of his gratitude to Almighty God that the war had ended, and he had decided to make the gift to the Nursing Association, as he had long felt that the Association was doing a good work for the poorer people of Sheffield, and would probably do further good work if it had more funds.

As a thank-offering for peace an anonymous donor has given £25,000 to the hospital fund of the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities.

Recently Manchester and Liverpool Infirmaries and Guy's Hospital each received an anonymous gift of £20,000.

**COMING EVENT.**

February 28th.—Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work. Conference on Mental Hygiene. Speaker, Miss I. Macdonald, 10, Orchard Street, Portman Square, W. 3.30 p.m. Tea 1s. Trained nurses cordially invited.

**BOOK OF THE WEEK.****"THE GREAT HOUSE."\***

Mary Audley, the penniless daughter of an artist, stranded in Paris in the forties, and befriended by a Polish princess, met by chance in her salon an hitherto unknown kinsman, Lord Audley, who had just won a lawsuit, by which he got a bare title and an empty rent-roll.

Taking compassion on his young relative, who was a beautiful girl, with a striking personality, he undertook to placate her uncle (against whom he had just won his suit for the title) with whom Mary's father had been at variance.

The result of his mediation resulted in Mary shortly finding a home with her somewhat eccentric relative at the Gatehouse. The old man was still sore from his recent defeat—as Stubbs, the lawyer, put it, "he was mad on the point," and was constantly on the look-out for fresh evidence which would prove his claim. It was, therefore, anything but a calm atmosphere in the beautiful old house to which Mary found herself transplanted. To complicate matters, she was heiress to the title in the event of the present Lord Audley dying without children.

As the story is full of intrigue and plot, it is necessary to understand the foregoing explanation.

As may be imagined, intercourse between Lord Audley and old John Audley at the Gatehouse was not desired on either side, and until Mary took up her residence with the latter there had been no communication between the two.

The old man, in his hatred to his rival, feared that Lord Audley would see the advantage of marrying Mary and so making his claim doubly secure. But if Lord Audley had the title, old John had the money and the estates, and his object was that Peter Bassett, his chosen companion and secretary, should make that advantage impossible by marrying Mary himself.

Of the two, Peter Bassett was beyond doubt the better man, but Mary was naturally attracted by the greater physical attractions of Lord Audley.

The quiet weeks following her arrival seemed like Paradise, though few young people would have found the Gatehouse a lively abode.

The Great House, fallen into ruin, was the ancestral home of the Audleys, but its present owner lacked the means either to live there or to keep it in repair. It stood there, a monument of depression and failure. No one had lived there for three generations. At the house-warming to celebrate its rebuilding on a vast scale, the only son quarrelled with a guest and was killed. Bassett, describing it to Mary, says: "In the sunlight it is one of the most dreary things you can imagine; in the moonlight it is better, but unspeakably melancholy."

The old man, John Audley, was convinced that the title-deeds which would establish his own claims were somewhere concealed in this deserted home of the Audleys, and the old man and his

\* By Stanley Weyman. John Murray, London.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)